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## CONTENT AND DISCONTENT.

BY GEO. KLINGLE.

"Alas!" a little Violet sighed, With just a grain of injured pride, "Why did they tint my purple breast, With deeper coloring than the rest, And give me such a graceful stem— Taller, by far, than given to them— And give me fragrance, if it was made No nook, embosomed in the shade, Where I could spread my purple vest Unsoured by suns, by dews refreshed?" "Hush, murmur not," a Violet said. The tall stem bent its pretty head And saw, quite nestled to the ground, The plainest Violet to be found; And smiled to hear it whisper low: "Pray be content while; I know The Hand that made us knows the best The place to fling each purple vest. Pray be content; the Hand, though slow, Will come again with dew, I know."

Unsoothed, the restless Violet swept Her pretty petals right and left, And murmured at the golden air, The crimson sweeping everywhere; The feverish breath of passing hours; The feverish breath of panting flowers; The Hand that kept the dew away; The Hand that ruled the golden day; Till, parched and weary, wilted quite, A restless, tossing, withered fright, The discontented violet hung Upon its weary stem undone. Her freshness gone from stem and vest, The purple faded from her breast: While patient in her humble place, The Violet plain of vest and face, Contented, though the hours were slow; Contented in the crimson glow; Contented, waited for the dew The Good Hand yet would bring, she knew; And when the star awoke, there lay Upon her breast, as bright as they, A dew-drop cool, and who can tell Where slept a Violet in the dell More fresh and fair than she; while near, The discontented, withered, sear, No beauty knew, no fragrance gave; No more its purple breast could wave; Alas! too late in death she knew That to contentment came the dew.

—Christian Union.

MELICK HOUSE, RABWAY, N. J.

### Sherman's Memoirs.

Sherman's book is taking like wild-fire. It settles a good many vexed questions. The following extracts, relating to Stanton and the surrender of Johnson, will be found highly interesting:

The difficulty between Gen. Sherman and Secretary Stanton was one of the painful events of the war, and to be attributed solely, we think, to the peculiar temperaments of the two men. Stanton paid Sherman a visit on the 11th of January and ordered all the cotton to be sent North. By the orders of Stanton, all the marks were obliterated from the cotton, which Sherman "thought strangely of at the time and even more so now." "For I am assured," he says, "that claims, real and fictitious, have been proved up against this identical cotton of three times the quantity actually captured, and that reclamations have been allowed for more than the actual quantity captured—namely, 31,000 bales." Stanton remained with Sherman for some days, "seemingly very curious about matters and things in general." He did not think that some of Sherman's generals had shown kindness to the negro, and he complained of Gen. Jefferson C. Davis. Sherman defended his generals, claiming that they felt a sympathy for the negroes, but "of a different sort from that of Mr. Stanton, which was not the power of humanity but of politics." There was a conference between Secretary Stanton and a delegation of negroes, and among the questions addressed to them was this: "State what is the feeling of the colored people toward Gen. Sherman, and how far do they regard his sentiments and actions as friendly to their interests or otherwise." The answer was that they had the utmost confidence in Sherman "as a man in the providence of God set apart especially to accomplish this work." This was certainly a singular interview; and Sherman, commenting upon it says with native and, we think, pardonable vanity, "It certainly was a strange fact that the great Secretary of War should have catechised negroes concerning the character of a general who had commanded 100,000 men in battle, and captured cities, conducted 65,000 men successfully across 4,000 miles of hostile territory, and had just brought tens of thousands of freedmen to a place of security. But because he had not loaded down his army by other hundreds of thousands of freedmen negroes, it was constructed by others as hostile to the black race." "My aim," says General Sherman, "was to whip the rebels and humble their pride and follow them to their utmost recesses to make them tear and dread us. Stanton was not in good health; although he appeared robust and strong, he complained a good deal of internal pains, which threatened his life, and which would compel him soon to quit public office. He said that the price of everything had so risen, in comparison with the depreciated money, that there

was danger of National bankruptcy, and he appealed to me as a soldier and a patriot to hurry up matter so as to bring the war to a close."

### SHERMAN AND LINCOLN.

Then came the march through the Carolinas from Charleston steadily north and the burning of Columbia, which General Sherman believes to have been an accident arising from the criminal folly of the Confederates in setting fire to their cotton. When the army reached Goldsboro; Sherman took a run to City Point to meet Lincoln. The President remembered him perfectly, and they engaged in a most interesting conversation. Having made a good, long, social visit, they took their leave and went to General Grant's quarters where Mrs. Grant had provided tea. "While at the table," says Sherman, "Mrs. Grant inquired if we had seen Mrs. Lincoln." "No," said the general, "I did not ask for her, and I added that I did not even know that she was on board." Mrs. Grant then exclaimed, "Well, you are a pretty pair," and added that our neglect was unpardonable, when the general said we would call again the next day and make amends for the unintended slight. The next day they called, and Mrs. Lincoln, who was not well, did not see them. General Sherman gives full notes of his conversation with President Lincoln. "Of all the men I ever have met, he seemed to possess more of the elements of greatness combined with goodness than any other. When at rest or listening, his legs and arms seemed to hang almost lifeless, and his face was careworn and haggard; but the moment he began to talk his face lightened up, his tall form as it were unfolded, and he was the very impersonation of good humor and fellowship. The last words I recall as addressed to me were that he should feel better when I was back to Goldsboro. We parted at the gateway of the River Queen, about noon March 28th, and I never saw him again." During this conversation General Sherman asked President Lincoln what should be done to Jefferson Davis and the political leaders. "As to Jefferson Davis," says Sherman, "Mr. Lincoln was hardly at liberty to speak his mind fully, but intimated that he had better clear out, escape the country, only it would not do for him to say so openly. A man who once had taken the total abstinence pledge, when visiting a friend was invited to take a drink, but declined on the score of his pledge, when his friend suggested lemonade, which was accepted. In preparing the lemonade the friend pointed to the brandy bottle, and said that the lemonade would be more palatable if he were to pour in a little brandy, and his guest said if he could do so unbeknown to him, he would not object, from which illustration I inferred that Mr. Davis was to escape unbeknown to him."

### THE SURRENDER AND THE STANTON QUARREL.

The surrender of Lee and the assassination of Lincoln came swiftly upon each other. Sherman first learned it in a private dispatch on the morning of April 18th. He kept the news quiet until he had occasion to see General Joseph Johnson, to discuss the surrender. "As soon as we were alone together," says Sherman, "I showed him the dispatch announcing Mr. Lincoln's assassination, and watched him closely. The perspiration came out in large drops on his forehead, and he did not attempt to conceal his distress. He denounced the act as a disgrace to the age, and hoped I did not charge it to the Confederate government, I told him I could not believe that he, or General Lee or the officers of the Confederate army, could possibly be privy to acts of assassination, but I would not say as much for Jefferson Davis, George Sanders and men of that tribe. We talked about the effect of this act on the country at large and the armies, and he realized that it made my situation extremely delicate." Sherman urged upon Johnson the propriety of surrender. This the Confederate General admitted, saying that any further fighting would be murder. Out of this conversation arose a cartel signed between Johnson and Sherman, General Breckenridge being present, and consenting thereto. The cartel or basis of agreement agreed to recommend the restoration of the States to their old rights and privileges. Sherman contended that he, in doing this, had followed out the advice of Mr. Lincoln, and certainly his information on that subject justified this conclusion. But Johnson was President and the country was maddened at the assassination of the President. There was no cry so loud as that of revenge. Stanton, who, with all his great qualities as an organizer and secretary, had an imperious, ungovernable temper, disapproved Sherman's cartel and virtually disgraced him by sending Grant to supersede him. He issued orders to Generals Sherman Schofield and other commanders not to obey Sherman's orders. It was thought that Sherman had been a traitor, and a dispatch was put in circulation, under the apparent sanction of the Secretary of War, to the effect that Jefferson Davis had escaped with a million of specie from Richmond banks, with which they hoped to make terms with Sherman or some other commander for an escape to Mexico. It is hard to realize that so cruel, so unfounded an accusation could have been sanctioned by a cabinet against an officer of the distinguished fame and service of General Sherman. General Grant went

to North Carolina, but behaved with the utmost delicacy toward General Sherman, not even appearing in the army, but allowing Sherman to complete his surrender with Johnson. The millions of specie which Jefferson Davis was carrying South in wagons, turned out to be a few thousand dollars that could have been carried in a valise. Sherman came North with his army, and boiling with rage. "To say," he says, "that I was merely angry at the tone and substance of the public proceeding of the War Department could hardly express the state of my feelings. I was outraged beyond measure, and was resolved to resent the insult, cost what it would." He declined Halleck's proffers of friendship because he had repeated the orders of Stanton over his own signature. He refused to allow Halleck to review one of his corps. On reaching Washington he called on President Johnson, who took pains to disavow Stanton's war bulletin. General Grant endeavored to effect a reconciliation between Sherman and Stanton, but as the Secretary made no friendly advances, Sherman "resolved to resent what he considered an insult as publicly as it was made."

### HOME AGAIN.

On the 12th of May, 1865, the armies were to be reviewed. Sherman brought his wife and her father, the venerable Thomas Ewing, to see the sight. The whole army of Georgia bivouacked around the capital. The morning of the 24th of May was exceedingly beautiful. Punctually at 9 o'clock, attended by Howard and his staff, he rode slowly down the avenue, crowds of men, women and children flocking around him. As he neared the brick house on Lafayette square, he observed Seward, feeble and bandaged, at one of the windows. "I moved," says Sherman, "in that direction, and took off my hat to Mr. Seward, who sat at the window. He recognized the salute and returned it, and then we hurried on steadily, passed the President, saluting with our swords. All on the stand arose and acknowledged the salute. Then turning into the gate of the Presidential grounds we left our horses and orderlies and went upon the stand, where I found Mrs. Sherman, with her father and son. Passing them I shook hands with the President, General Grant, and each member of the cabinet. As I approached Mr. Stanton he offered his hand, but I declined publicly, and the fact was universally noticed. I then took my post on the left of the President, and for six hours and a half stood while the army passed. It was, in my judgment, the most magnificent army in existence; 65,000 men in splendid physique, had just completed a march of nearly 2,000 miles in a hostile country. Division after division passed, each commander of an army corps coming on the stand during the passage of his command, to be presented to the President and Cabinet, and spectators of the steadiness and harmoniousness of the tread, the careful dress on the guides, the uniform intervals. All eyes were directly to the front, and the tattered and bullet-riven flags, festooned with flowers, all attracted universal notice. For six hours and a half that strong tread of the army of the West resounded along Pennsylvania avenue; not a soul of that vast crowd of spectators left its place, and when the rear of the column passed by thousands of spectators still lingered to express their sense of confidence in the strength of the government which could claim such an army."

### The Grasshopper Plague—How it might have been Averted.

The marvel is that it does not sweep over the whole region, when we read of the wanton destruction of its birds. An item in a Chicago paper, not long since, stated that 10,000 quails and prairie chickens were fed to swine in a single day, in that city. It goes on to say that in the country west of Chicago, quails, ruffed grouse, and prairie chickens are destroyed by the million, irrespective of the law or season. Tons of birds snared and shot out of season are boiled down and fed to swine. On one day there stood in the corner of two streets a wagon containing one hundred and eighty dozens of prairie chickens, while on the near sidewalk were piled thirty-seven boxes, containing five hundred and sixty dozens of quails, corrupt, decomposing and condemned by the health officers as only fit for swine. They are trapped, shot and snared, and sent to market, where they find a ready sale up to the Middle of March, and yet the indiscriminate slaughter continues. The young birds and setting hens, are alike captured and sent to Chicago and other cities on commission, and destined to be fed to swine. The birds must soon disappear before such recklessness and vice. Yes the birds have disappeared, almost entirely, from many western localities, and grasshoppers and other noxious insects have multiplied and swarmed forth to spread famine and desolation. The divinely arranged balance between birds and insects has been destroyed by ruthless bird-killers, and the cry of famine rings out over the land. Such is the retribution for the violation of the equipoise of nature and making of discord in the divine harmony of nature's work.—Hartford (Ct.) Current.

The faith that does not throw a warmth as of summer around the sympathies and charities of the heart, and drop invigilations like snows upon the conscience and the will, is as false as it is unsatisfying.—Paul Potter.

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